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ACTION EAP-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AIT-03 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 C-00 DINT-00
DOEE-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00
UTED-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-00 VCE-00
M-00 AC-01 DCP-01 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-00 PC-01
PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 SS-00 TEST-00
TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 SA-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02
G-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /010W
-----4E3A9C 201049Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5054
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AIT TAIPEI 0634
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
NSC WASHDC
ASEAN COLLECTIVE
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ABLAGG//

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SIPDIS

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STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV, EAP/CM, INR/EAP/SEA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [CH](#) [TW](#) [VM](#) [CVR](#) [CTERR](#)

SUBJECT: NONG DUC MANH VISITS CHINA: BOTH SIDES REAFFIRM FRIENDSHIP, CONDEMN TERRORISM

11. (SBU) SUMMARY. NONG DUC MANH, COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM (CPV) GENERAL SECRETARY, VISITED CHINA NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 4. THIS WAS HIS FIRST VISIT TO CHINA SINCE BECOMING GENERAL SECRETARY LAST APRIL, AND WAS PROBABLY DESIGNED TO ASSUAGE ANY CHINESE FEARS THAT VIETNAM WAS MOVING "TOO CLOSE" TO THE U.S. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE US-VIETNAM BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT (BTA) EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION CONSISTED MAINLY OF SENIOR CPV OFFICIALS. BOTH SIDES JUDGED THE TRIP A "GREAT SUCCESS." THEY CONDEMNED TERRORISM AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE ONGOING US-LED EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISM. THE VISIT DID NOT BREAK ANY NEW GROUND, BUT THE TWO SIDES REAFFIRMED PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS THE LAND BORDER TREATY, TONKIN GULF AGREEMENT, AND THE AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES COOPERATION. IN ADDITION, THEY SIGNED A GENERAL "FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT" ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE VISIT GENERATED A LARGE AMOUNT OF POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE AND COINCIDED WITH CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO AND PASSAGE OF THE BTA. END SUMMARY.

12. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, A NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL PARTY AND GVN OFFICIALS ACCOMPANIED MANH ON HIS VISIT. THEY INCLUDED:

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--VU KHOAN OF THE CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT (NOTE: VU KHOAN IS ALSO TRADE MINISTER. END NOTE.);
--NGUYEN DY NIEN, MEMBER OF THE CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FOREIGN MINISTER;
--NGUYEN VAN SON, CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT;
--NGO VAN DU, CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF THE CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICE;
--HO TIEN NGHI, CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF THE CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICE;
--TA QUANG NGOC, CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND MINISTER OF MARINE PRODUCTS;
--DANG VU CHU, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY; AND
--BUI HONG PHUC, GVN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA.

TRIP VIEWED AS A GREAT SUCCESS

13. (U) SOURCES VIEWED THE TRIP AS A "GREAT SUCCESS."

SENIOR MFA CHINA EXPERT DANG MUNG KHOI TOLD POLOFF ON DECEMBER 10 THAT MANH MET WITH SEVEN CHINA POLITBURO MEMBERS, "THE SAME NUMBER THAT THEN-PRESIDENT CLINTON MET DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA." ACCORDING TO KHOI, MEETING THIS MANY POLITBURO MEMBERS IS "RARE," INDICATING THE "IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE VISIT." XI HUI, THE CHINA EMBASSY'S FIRST SECRETARY, TOLD POLOFF ON DECEMBER 18 "THE TRIP "REAFFIRMED

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BILATERAL COOPERATION ON BIG PROJECTS, SUCH AS MINING." THE TWO SIDES DID SIGN A "FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT" ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION INCLUDING A LOAN PROVISION FOR THE MINING PROJECT, SHE ADDED.

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TERRORISM CONDEMNED

14. (U) THE JOINT DECLARATION ALSO STATED THAT "THE TWO SIDES STRONGLY CONDEMN TERRORISM IN ANY FORM." PROF. NGUYEN HUY QUY, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHINA STUDIES TOLD POLOFF ON DECEMBER 13 THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSIONS WHERE THE TWO SIDES "AGREED TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AGAINST TERRORISM, BUT WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS MINIMAL HARM TO CIVILIANS." WHILE THE TWO SIDES SUPPORTED THE US-LED EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISM, THEY ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO ENSURE "AFGHANISTAN'S NATIONAL INTERESTS AND INDEPENDENCE," HE ADDED.

REASONS FOR THE VISIT

15. (U) PROF. QUY SAID THERE WERE ESSENTIALLY THREE REASONS MANH VISITED CHINA AT THIS TIME:
--TO RECIPROCATATE LI PENG'S SEPTEMBER VISIT AND CONTINUE THE "TRADITION" OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.

--TO CONTINUE THE CPV GENERAL SECRETARY'S USUAL CUSTOM OF VISITING LAOS AND CHINA DURING HIS FIRST YEAR.
--TO "REAFFIRM" BOTH COUNTRIES' DETERMINATION TO "CONTINUE TO RESOLVE REMAINING ISSUES" ON PREVIOUSLY-SIGNED AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS LAND BORDER TREATY, TONKIN GULF AGREEMENT, AND THE AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES COOPERATION. SINGAPORE EMBASSY'S FIRST SECRETARY, DARRYL LAU KAI MUN, TOLD POLOFF ON DECEMBER 19 THAT THE LAND BORDER DEMARCATION AGREEMENT IS "NEARLY COMPLETED" EXCEPT FOR A SMALL AMOUNT OF DISPUTED TERRITORY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE "SIGNIFICANT ISSUES" CONCERNING THE GULF OF TONKIN AND FISHERIES AGREEMENTS. THESE CENTER AROUND MARITIME DEMARCATION AND THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF FISHING VESSELS ALLOWED IN THE COMMON GROUND. THE CHINA EMBASSY'S HUI SAID WORKING-LEVEL INTERMINISTERIAL MEETINGS TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES "WILL CONTINUE."

16. (U) PROF. QUY SAID IT APPEARED MANH DID NOT HAVE A ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH HIS COUNTERPART, JIANG ZEMIN; RATHER, THEY MET WITH THEIR DELEGATIONS AND AT CEREMONIAL DINNERS. ACCORDING TO PROF. QUY, THIS INDICATED THE VISIT WAS "PROBABLY LESS SUBSTANTIVE." HOWEVER, THE TRIP WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LEADERS "TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND UNDERSTAND THEIR COUNTRIES' RESPECTIVE POLICIES," HE ADDED.

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BILATERAL TRADE

17. (U) PROF. QUY AND HUI STATED SEPARATELY THAT THE VISIT INCLUDED GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL TRADE POLICY. PROF. QUY NOTED THAT CHINA WANTED TO ASSURE VIETNAM THAT CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO "WILL NOT IMPACT" ITS TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM." (NOTE: BILATERAL TRADE IS EXPECTED TO REACH USD 3 BILLION BY THE END OF 2001; THE TWO COUNTRIES PLEDGED TO TRY TO REACH USD 5 BILLION BY THE END OF 2005. END NOTE.) SIMILARLY, HUI STATED THAT CHINA SOUGHT ASSURANCES FROM VIETNAM THAT RECENT PASSAGE OF THE US-VIETNAM BTA WILL NOT AFFECT CHINA'S ACCESS TO VIETNAM'S MARKETS OR THE GVN'S FOCUS ON REGIONAL TRADE.

WHAT'S NEXT

18. (U) THE CHINA EMBASSY'S HUI STATED THE PACE OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS SHOULD CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. SHE NOTED THAT MANH INVITED JIANG ZEMIN TO VISIT VIETNAM "NEXT YEAR." WHILE IT APPEARS LIKELY HE WILL VISIT VIETNAM DURING 2002, SHE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHEN.

19. (SBU) COMMENT. AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE VIETNAMESE

DELEGATION, THE MANH VISIT WAS MAINLY A POLITICAL ONE.
PERHAPS NOT COINCIDENTALLY, THE VISIT OCCURRED DURING TWO
VERY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC EVENTS-CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO
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AND SIGNING OF THE US-VIETNAM BTA. VU KHOAN, GVN TRADE
MINISTER AND A KEY FIGURE IN THE BTA, ATTENDED WEARING HIS
OTHER HAT AS A SENIOR POLITBURO MEMBER. ALTHOUGH NOT STATED
OFFICIALLY, IT APPEARS THE VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT BY
SENIOR PARTY MEMBERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO REASSURE EACH
OTHER PRIOR TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DZUNG'S TRIP TO THE
U.S. THAT, WHILE THE WORLD TRADE AND INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE
HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE
FORWARD. BURGHARDT

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